

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 01061 171400Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
/072 W

-----046085 171404Z /53

O P 171148Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2022
INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRORITY
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR SHUM WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND ANTI-PAC ACTIONS

REF: A) MBABANE 1285 B) MBABANE 1294

1. SWAZI PRIME MINISTER DAPHEVU DLAMINI TELEPHONED ME
LATE MORNING APRIL 15 TO INQUIRE IF I HAD RECEIVED TEXT
OF PRESS RELEASE (REF B) THAT HE PROMISED DURING OUR
MEETING PREVIOUS EVENING (REF A). I SAID IT HAD ARRIVED,
THANKED HIM WARMLY AND SAID IT PUT GOS AUTHORITY FULLY
BEHIND THE COMMENTS HE AND OTHERS HAD MADE AS TO REASONS
FOR DETENTION OF PAC/SWAZILAND (PAC/S) ACTIVISTS. IN REPLY,
PM REITERATED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT, WHEN FACTS BECOME
KNOWN, GOS ACTIONS WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AND FULLY JUSTIFIED.

2. I THEN NOTED THAT PRESS RELEASE REFERRED ONLY TO
REASONS FOR DETAINING PAC MEMBERS AND NOT SWAZI
SYMPATHIZERS WHO WERE ALSO SUBJECT OF DETENTION AND
HENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN. I ASKED PM WHETHER WE
COULD ANTICIPATE SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENT GIVING REASONS
FOR DETENTION OF SWAZI CITIZENS. PM HESITATED A MOMENT
BEFORE SAYING GOS DID NOT INTEND COMMENT ON DETENTION
OF SWAZIS. I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD
TELL ME PRIVATELY THAT MIGHT HELP IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS
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FROM MY GOVERNMENT ABOUT GOS ACTION. PM REPLIED HE WOULD
"BE GLAD TO DISCUSS IT" WITH ME. I NOTED MY PLANS WERE
TO RETURN TO SWAZILAND ON OR ABOUT APRIL 25 WHEN, I
UNDERSTOOD, HE WOULD BE BACK FROM MEDICAL CHECKUP
IN SWITZERLAND (A FOLLOW-UP ON INJURIES HE RECEIVED IN
CAR ACCIDENT THERE LAST YEAR). OUR CONVERSATION
CONCLUDED ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS WARMLY THAN IT BEGAN WITH

MUTUAL PROMISES TO MEET WHEN WE WERE BOTH AGAIN IN
SWAZILAND.

3. COMMENT: THE PM'S RATHER DEFENSIVE REACTION TO
QUESTIONS ABOUT DETENTION OF SWAZIS INDICATES THAT GOS
HOPED TO CARRY OUT THE LATTER UNDER COVER OF ANTI-PAC
ACTIONS. IN LINE WITH OUR POLICY AND ACTIONS TO DATE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS, AND TO BE CONSISTENT, I BELIEVE
WE SHOULD NOT DELAY LONG IN FOLLOWING UP. PM'S PERSONAL
INVOLVEMENT, I.E., IN OUR CONVERSATION APRIL 14 AND HIS
PHONE CALL, PRESENTS BEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO GET
QUIETLY BUT UNMISTAKABLY ON RECORD AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL
THE US INTEREST AND CONCERN REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF
SWAZI DETAINEES. PM'S FRIENDLY REASONABLENESS CONTRASTS
WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S FREQUENT DISREGARD FOR
ELEMENTARY FACTS OR LOGIC, MAKING PM THE PERSON TO DEAL
WITH AT THIS TIME. PM HAS GIVEN US AN OPENING FOR DIS-
CUSSING SUBJECT OF SWAZI DETAINEES; HIS INVITATION TO
TALK PRIVATELY TEN DAYS HENCE SHOULD, IN MY OPINION, BE
R
PURSUED. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, THEREFORE, I
R
ASSUME DEPARTMENT WOULD WANT US TO FOLLOW UP AS OUTLINED
ABOVE AND TO ADD SUBJECT OF SWAZI DETAINEES TO THAT OF
MOZAMBIKAN REFUGEES FOR AGENDA OF ITEMS TO BE RAISED
WITH PM MAPHEVU LATER THIS MONTH.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS RELEASES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO01061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0216
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780450/aaaabqnc.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9dfc27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 MBABANE 1285, 78 MBABANE 1294
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2950290
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAZILAND ANTI-PAC ACTIONS
TAGS: PINR, SHUM, SOPN, WZ, PAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9dfc27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014